

MONTANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING
August 14, 2008
WILDERNESS ROOM
HELENA, MONTANA

Committee Members Present: Linda Kirkland (chair), Ron Bibler, Charles Charette, Cheryl Gillespie, Char Harasymczuk, Christy Keto, Chris Caniglia, Kristen Kober, Julie Saylor, Amber Lang, Eric Eck, Matt Bugni and Colette Custer.

MTAP Staff Present: Connie Phelps, Steve Johnson, Connie Hiatt, Leyetta Way.

Supporting and Contributing Persons Present: Peggy Williams, DPHHS; Deann Wilcutt, DPHHS and Christa Cervantes, Hamilton Relay.

Chair, Linda Kirkland opened the Montana Telecommunications Access Program Full Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m., in the Wilderness Room. Minutes were read and approved as read. Motion: Ms. Custer, Second: Ms. Keto. Ms Kirkland welcomed new committee member, Julie Saylor. Introductions of the group were made.

Public Comment: Ms. Kirkland called for Public Comment – none offered.

Subcommittee Reports: None

Director's Report: Ms. Phelps reported that the National Association of State Relay Administrators (NASRA) and the Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program Association conferences will be held in Lowell, Massachusetts, from September 16, 2008 to September 25, 2008. She will be attending both conferences as well as meeting with Hamilton Relay staff. During NASRA, Ms. Phelps will be participating on a panel discussion concerning internet based TRS jurisdictional separation of cost, procurement and perspectives. A short discussion ensued concerning how Montana would handle responsibility if internet based services were given to the states. Ms. Phelps also stated she had been asked to run as TEDPA chair again.

Ms. Phelps commented on having the entire committee at the meeting. She commended the Governor's office for filling all of the positions.

It was reported MTAP participated in the MSDB Learning Weekend with Sean Gill of Hamilton assisting the team. MTAP will be participating in a transition training in September. The MTAP team attended a training at Vision Net to observe an E 9-1-1 call from a text telephone. It was reported MSU College of Technology has created a class for E 9-1-1 dispatchers. Ms. Phelps reported that the FCC has come out with a report and order concerning Speech to Speech relay and the inadequacy of outreach. Ms. Cervantes reported Hamilton is working with Dr. Bob Siegelman on this issue.

Ms. Phelps reported the Hamilton Relay contract will be signed as soon as the performance bond is cleared. The Relay contract will extend to February 27, 2009. The equipment contract with WCI is being prepared and will be signed soon.

MTAP is planning a Gala for Deaf Awareness week. The celebration will be on September 28th at 2:00 in the Myrna Loy Theatre. The performance will feature Deaf performers and feature Susan Sperry on flute. This event is free to the public, and any donations will be given to MAD.

Ms. Phelps reported that the MTAP administrative rules are moving forward toward a hearing. She also reported that she was asked to apply for a committee at Department of Revenue for negotiated rulemaking.

NECA Report: Ron Bibler reported that the NECA committee meets twice a year, once in March and once in October. Mr. Bibler gave a short report on the ten digit numbering system.

Budget Report: Deann Willcut Ms. Willcut reported we have switched to fiscal year 2009, and still have some costs for FY 08 coming in. She reported MTAP spent an acceptable level of expenditures to set our base budget for the 2010 biennium. MTAP has a fairly large fund balance, but once we begin paying for VRS and IP that will dwindle down. Mr. Bugni explained MTAP's EPP request to allow MTAP to appropriate our fund balance in the event the responsibility for VRS and IP relay is handed to the state. Mr. Bugni stated that he and Ms. Willcut were asking the committee to approve the EPP request and to give them the ability to compute the amount for new technologies and leave a \$200,000.00 fund balance at the end of 2011. **Motion: Ms. Custer, Second, Ms. Gillespie, Motion Carried.**

Hamilton Relay Report: Ms. Cervantes reported on the Hamilton Relay outreach efforts. She then presented her power point presentation on relay activities. Discussion ensued as to TRS numbers declining while the use of new technologies increases. During the CapTel presentation there was discussion about whether all people who have CapTel use them, and if not why. Ms. Cervantes then presented the Hamilton annual report.

Old Business: Ms. Williams explained the department's policy concerning travel to conferences. She cautioned the committee about sending many people to the same conference. The committee may decide to send as many people as they wish, however the State determines how many staff may go. Discussion ensued as to public perception of sending committee members and staff. It was agreed that at the November meeting a vote will be held as to training opportunities and how many people may go.

Equipment Distribution and Training: Steve Johnson & Connie Hiett Steve and Connie demonstrated the JV35B telephone. They explained the piece of equipment, the positive features and some features that were negative.

Outreach Report: Levetta Way Ms. Way distributed the Outreach report and explained it. Discussion ensued as to how effective outreach efforts were. The TV ads have been very effective and applications are increasing. Ms. Way explained the tracking of applications sent and applications received.

DPHHS Report: Peggy Williams Ms. Williams reported that the EPP process has taken place and the budget will be formalized soon. She reported the new building MTAP was supposed to move in to has been cancelled by the Governor's office.

New Business: Ms. Kirkland discussed subcommittee participation. She asked the committee to review what subcommittees they were a part of and encouraged Ms. Saylor to become involved.

Discussion ensued as to committee members participation in testimony before the legislature. Guidelines were discussed.

Ms Kirkland requested Ms Saylor receive the MTAP 101 book to familiarize herself with the program. Ms. Phelps assured her it had already been done. Ms. Custer requested after it is updated it be disseminated to the entire committee.

Discussion of the May meeting site was held. The committee decided that Bozeman would be the place to hold the meeting.

Ms. Saylor gave a brief biography of herself. She was born in Lewistown and grew up in Montana. She worked in the Helena school district as a teach and librarian for 25 years. The enjoys the outdoors, reading, writing and hiking. Ms. Saylor developed a hearing loss 15 years ago that has deteriorated over time. She expressed her pleasure at being on the committee. Ms. Saylor also explained how she uses technology, specifically CapTel IP to communicate.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm